

## Primary Activities in the Greater Dublin Area| sample answer

**Q: 'Examine the development of primary economic activities in an Irish Region that you have studied' (2008 Q6 B)**

The region I have studied is the Greater Dublin Area (GDA). This is a core region; it is the centre of economic, manufacturing and is the centre for intensive commercial farming in Ireland.

Primary Activities are affected by two factors in the GDA, human and physical:

**Physical:**

The GDA has low lying relief, this has enabled farmers to create large, regular, fields, suitable for mechanised farming. Arable farms growing wheat are large and profitable.

The climate of the GDA is cool-temperate. Frost is rare due to the close proximity to the Irish sea. The sea regulates the temperature and keeps it cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. This is an advantage for crop growing.

There is a variety of fertile soils. In North County Dublin at Rush and Lusk light sandy soils are used for market gardening. The soil heats up in spring and is easily worked.

Market gardening includes the growing of salad vegetables in greenhouses and potatoes, onions and cabbages out in the fields. Co Meath on the other hand has fertile boulder clay for arable farming.

At the end of the last ice age sands and boulder clay deposited by glaciers created a well drained fertile soil in the west of the GDA. This supports good quality grassland.

Kildare has this glacial deposited soil- it has a huge market in the cattle industry, the pastures are used to fatten cattle. Kildare is also the centre of the bloodstock industry and produces racehorses for export.

Relief has influenced the development of the forestry industry in the GDA. The Wicklow Mountains rise over 1000m. The steep slopes and high altitude are a disadvantage for arable farming and therefore the forestry industry has thrived in Wicklow.

The mild climate encourages faster growth and causes them to mature earlier. This means they can harvest sooner. The rugged relief is also used for the grazing sheep.

**Human:**

The GDA has a large population. It has over 1 million people. And Dublin is classified as the largest market in the country. This has encouraged the development of commercial agriculture.

Farmers in the GDA can sell their products directly to the consumers in the GDA through things such as farmers markets- also the supermarkets demand for fresh fruit and vegetables offers a market- North Dublin centre of Market gardening.

The population of the GDA are wealthier than average. Their income is 40% higher than the rest of Ireland and 10% higher than EU average income. This provides a diverse socio/economic market.

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The GDA has a huge food processing industry, this relies heavily on the agricultural industry and provides a constant market. Industries such as Jacobs and Guinness have encouraged grain production in the south and west GDA.